THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The Second National Commission on Labour in its report submitted to the Government on 29.6.2002 has recommended rationalization of labour laws. The Commission has proposed indicative drafts for laws on (i) Labour Management Relations, (ii) Wages, (iii) Occupational Safety and Health, (iv) Small Enterprises (Employment Relations), (v) Hours of Work, Leave and Other Working Conditions at Workplace, (vi) Child Labour, and (vii) Law on Unorganised Sectors. The recommendations of the Commission are in process in consultation with all social partners. However, given the procedures involved, it may not be possible to specify the time limit.

Daily wages for unorganised labour

1726. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unorganised labour on daily wages, on permanent basis in the rural sectors during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that these workers have no social security provisions and do not enjoy any support system during their old age;

(c) whether the Second National Labour Commission has suggested effective measures for their old age provisions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to give effect to the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) State-wise and year-wise information on the number of unorganized workers working on daily wages, permanent basis is not maintained. However, as per National Sample Survey (NSS) conducted during 1999-2000, the number of regular salaried and casual workers in rural areas was estimated at 5.52 crores and 13.18 crores respectively.

(b) The Government has taken several steps for the welfare of workers in the unorganized sector. Government has launched Janshree Bima Yojana on 10.8.2000 to provide life insurance protection to the rural and urban poor persons including unorganized workers who are below and marginally above poverty line. The Government has also set up welfare funds for the workers in some of the mining sectors and beedi workers. These funds are used to provide various kinds of welfare measures to the

workers such as health care, housing, educational assistance for children, drinking water supply, etc. The Government is also implementing various employment oriented schemes and programmes such as Swaranjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana, National Social Assistance Programme, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Yojana, Sampoorna Grameen Rojgar Yojana, etc. to provide gainful employment to the labourers. Further, the Government has recently launched a social security scheme for agricultural labour namely "Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana, 2001' through the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in 50 selected districts to cover 10 lakh agricultural workers over a period of three years.

(c) and (d) The Second National Commission on Labour (NCL) has made wide ranging recommendations on various issues relating to Welfare and Social Security to the workers in the unorganized sector. Extensive consultations and interactions on NCL's recommendations have already been initiated with various interest groups.

Changes in labour laws

1727. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "PHD calls for level playing field in labour laws" which appeared in The Hindu, dated the 22nd October, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government would ensure that changes in the existing labour laws should be allowed in consonance with the need of social security measures for labour togetherwith the security of tenure of the employees; and

(d) if so, the measures contemplated in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) As per the news-item, the PHD has suggested an urgent need to restructure labour laws keeping in view the emergence of globalisation of the Indian Economy.

(c) and (d) The Second National Commission on Labour set up by the Government to suggest rationalization of existing laws relating to labour in the organised sector and an umbrella legislation for ensuring the minimum